

**Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada  
Minutes of the National Church Council Meeting  
March 3–5, 2016  
Hampton Inn Winnipeg Airport, 730 Berry St., Winnipeg, MB**

Present:

Officers: National Bishop Susan Johnson Linda Grainger, Secretary  
Sheila Hamilton, Vice-Chair Ken Day, Treasurer

Council: Vanessa Bergeron Rev. Dr. Marc Jerry  
Rev. Chris Bishopp Pat Lovell  
Jeff Buhse Les Pearson  
Marie-Laure Collet Rev. Jeff Smith  
Bruce Cook Rev. Heather Spencer-Stoltz  
Rev. Jane Gingrich Jeanie Stann  
Cole Guenter Rev. Brian Wilker-Frey  
Rev. Dr. Cam Harder Judy Wry  
Cynthia Haines-Turner (*CoGS rep. to NCC*)

Synod Bishops: Bishop Greg Mohr, BC Synod Bishop Michael Pryse, Eastern Synod  
Bishop Sid Haugen, SK Synod Bishop Elaine Sauer, MNO Synod (*absent  
on March 4 only*)

Staff: Rev. Paul Gehrs, Assistant to the Bishop, Justice and Leadership  
Rev. André Lavergne, Assistant to the Bishop, Ecumenical and Interfaith  
Rev. Lyle McKenzie, Assistant to the Bishop, Worship  
Trina Gallop Blank, Director of Communications and Stewardship  
Gloria McNabb, Director of Finance and Administration  
Desiree Mendoza, Meetings and Communications Coordinator

Regrets: Bishop Larry Kochendorfer, ABT Synod

**THURSDAY, MAR. 3, 2016, 7:00 P.M.**

### **Opening Worship**

Led by chaplain Rev. Chris Bishopp.

Vice-Chair Sheila Hamilton called the meeting to order.

### **Welcome and Check-In**

### **Agenda**

M/S That NCC adopt the agenda. **CARRIED.**

Declaration of Conflicts of Interest – No conflicts declared.

M/S That NCC approve the November 12–15, 2015 NCC meeting minutes. **CARRIED.**

M/S That NCC approve the November 12–15, 2015 Joint NCC and CoGS meeting minutes. **CARRIED.**

## **Report of the National Bishop**

Bishop Susan Johnson gave an oral report to NCC regarding her visit to Global Mission partner, Iglesia Evangelica Luterana Unida (IELU) in Patagonia, Argentina together with Director for Communications and Stewardship, Trina Gallop Blank. The visit took place, in part, to fulfill our CRA obligations to monitor programs using charitable dollars out of the country. Bishop Susan also shared with NCC her experience at CLWR's Global Encounter trip to Uganda.

## **Program Committee for Leadership for Ministry (PCLM)**

### **Sister Anna Brandt Bursary**

**CC-2016-01** That NCC approve the new Terms of Reference for the Sister Anna Brandt Bursary, including the new application form. **CARRIED.**

### **Chinese Special Interest Conference (CSIC)**

**CC-2016-02** That NCC approve amendments to the Chinese Special Interest Conference Constitution. **CARRIED.**

**CC-2016-03** That NCC approve amendments to the Chinese Special Interest Conference Bylaws. **CARRIED.**

### **Cora Martinson Memorial Fund**

**CC-2016-04** That NCC approve the new Terms of Reference for the Cora Martinson Memorial Fund. **CARRIED.**

## **Closing Worship for the Day**

The chaplain led the group in Closing Prayer.

## **FRIDAY, MARCH 4, 9:00 A.M.**

## **Opening Worship**

Led by the chaplain.

Vice-Chair Sheila Hamilton called the meeting to order.

## **Report of the ELCIC Officers**

Secretary Linda Grainger presented the report of the ELCIC Officers to NCC.

## **Reports of the Synod Bishops**

The synod bishops highlighted one area of their report. Rev. Dr. Marc Jerry reported on behalf of Bishop Larry Kochendorfer for the ABT Synod.

## **Conference of Bishops Report**

Bishop Greg Mohr presented the Conference of Bishops (COB) Report to NCC.

## CoGS Report

Cynthia Haines-Turner presented the report of the Council of General Synod (CoGS) to NCC.

## Work Plan Update

National Bishop Susan Johnson presented the updated work plan implementing the ELCIC Strategic Plan to NCC. Members of NCC reviewed the work in the area of Spirited Discipleship.

## Bible Study

Led by Vice-Chair Sheila Hamilton.

## Report from ELCIC-Group Services Inc. (GSI)

Lisa Thiessen, Executive Director of ELCIC-GSI presented an oral report to NCC.

*(See Appendix A: signed Resolution of the Member of ELCIC Group Services Inc.)*

## ELCIC Statement on Implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

**CC-2016-05** That NCC adopt the “ELCIC Statement on Implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples” in response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada’s Call to Action #48. **CARRIED.**

*(See Appendix B: ELCIC Statement on Implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples)*

## Report of the Global Mission Task Force

Sheila Hamilton gave a report on the Global Mission Task Force to NCC.

## Committee Reports—

### Audit

Jeff Buhse presented an oral report to NCC.

### Constitution

No report given. Secretary Linda Grainger commented on the work of the committee in the Officers Report.

### Finance

Treasurer Ken Day presented the report of the Finance Committee to NCC.

### Operating Budget

**CC-2016-06** That NCC approve the revised 2016 operating budget with revenues projected at \$2,447,150, expenses projected at \$2,506,750 and a deficit of \$59,600 to be covered by unrestricted net assets. **CARRIED.**

**CECF Budget**

**CC-2016-07** That NCC approve the revised 2016 CECF balanced budget with revenues and expenses projected at \$962,500. **CARRIED.**

**LIFE Budget**

**CC-2016-08** That NCC approve the revised 2016 LIFE budget with revenues projected at \$260,900, expenses projected at \$191,900 and a surplus of \$69,000. **CARRIED.**

**Revision to Personnel Policies – Statutory Holidays for Part Time Staff**

**CC-2016-09** That NCC approve the revised language of statutory holidays for part time staff under Section 3.06 Recognized Holidays of the ELCIC Personnel Handbook as follows.

Eligible full time staff who meets the Manitoba Employment Standards guidelines for general holidays will be paid for the holidays outlined above.

Part time employees are entitled to the same general holidays as full time employees but payment is based on a 5% of the employee’s total wages in the four-week period immediately before the holiday ~~not including any overtime.~~

**Eligible full time staff who meets the Manitoba Employment Standards guidelines for general holidays will be paid one regular work day’s pay for the holidays outlined above.**

**Part time employees who consistently work greater than 20 hours per week will be paid one regular work day’s pay for the holidays outlined above.**

**For employees whose hours of work vary, general holiday pay is calculated at 5% of the gross wages (not including overtime) in the 4 week period immediately before the holiday.**  
**CARRIED.**

**National Convention**

**CC-2016-10** That NCC approve the following registration fees for the 2017 ELCIC National Convention to be held in Winnipeg, MB on July 6–8, 2017.

Rostered, Lay or Youth Delegates \$1,075

Visitors (no meals) \$75

Day visitors (no meals) \$30

Visitor Meal Package (7 meals) \$125

Visitor Meal Package (no breakfast) \$105

Bulletin of Reports (printed copy) \$40

Exhibitor Display Fee \$375

**CARRIED.**

**National Program – Buying United**

**CC-2016-11** That ELCIC partner with Buying United for ELCIC members and affiliates, beginning with the Staples “Copy and Print” and the Lyreco “Office Supplies” discount programs. **CARRIED.**

### **National Program – TD Merchant Service**

**Motion:** That NCC adopt a national program for member organizations with TD Merchant Services to provide on-line and/or terminal payment processing solutions for donations services.

**CC-2016-12** That NCC defer the motion on a proposed national program to provide on-line and/or terminal payment processing solutions for donations to its next NCC meeting in September 2016.

**CARRIED.**

*Note: NCC asked the Finance Committee to research other options.*

### **Motion 1987–167—Policy Relating to Procedures in the Event of a Fiscal Emergency**

**CC-2016-13** That motion 1987-167 on the Policy Relating to Procedures in the Event of a Fiscal Emergency be rescinded. **CARRIED.**

*Note: 2/3 majority vote received.*

### **Faith, Order and Doctrine**

Rev. Dr. Marc Jerry presented the report of the Faith, Order and Doctrine (FOD) committee to NCC.

### **Governance**

Vice –Chair Sheila Hamilton presented the report of the Governance Committee to NCC.

### **Women of Faith Fund**

Judy Wry, NCC liaison to Women of Faith Fund presented an oral report to NCC.

### **Closing Worship**

The chaplain led the group in Closing Worship.

## **SATURDAY, MARCH 5, 9:00 A.M.**

### **Opening Prayer**

Led by chaplain Rev. Chris Bishopp.

### **Discussion on the Self-Understanding of the Lutheran Communion**

Bishop Susan presented the document to NCC. Table group discussions and presentations followed.

### **New Business**

#### **National / Synodical Consultation**

##### **Shared Vision and Benevolence**

NCC shared its views and insights on shared vision and benevolence. The question asked was “Who needs to be there; how it happens and who’ll pay for it.”

**CC-2016-14** That NCC refer the conversation on benevolence giving to be considered by national officers with a request to report at the September NCC meeting. **CARRIED.**

## **Praise Appeal**

**CC-2016-15** That NCC refer a discussion on Praise Appeal, Reformation Challenge, and benevolence to officers with a request to report in September 2016. **CARRIED.**

## **Talking Points**

Discussion took place regarding the use of Talking Points. Decision was made to produce one document for NCC use only (not to be reproduced or shared) and separate written summary that may be shared.

Thanks were extended to Cynthia Haines-Turner and Rev. Chris Bishopp for their service on NCC.

## **NEXT MEETINGS:**

### Next Meetings:

September 8–10, 2016

- Chaplains – Rev. Jeff Smith and Rev. Brian Wilker-Frey
- Bible Study – Rev. Jane Gingrich

### 2017

March 2–4

- Chaplain – Bruce Cook
- Bible Study –

September 7–9

## **Closing worship**

The chaplain led the group in Closing Worship.

## **Meeting adjourned**

RESOLUTION OF THE MEMBER  
OF  
ELCIC GROUP SERVICES INC.

WHEREAS the Moravian Church Northern Province ("MCNP") has requested that their pastors serving in Canada in Canadian organizations be allowed to become Members in the Pension Plan for Clergy and Lay Workers of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada ("ELCIC Pension Plan");

AND WHEREAS each Canadian congregation or Canadian affiliated organization of the Moravian Church Northern Province has agreed in principle to sign a Participation Agreement with ELCIC Group Services Inc.;

AND WHEREAS by-law 2.01(a)(ii) states that other not-for-profit faith based organizations may be approved as participating employers;

AND WHEREAS ELCIC Group Services Inc. has completed its due diligence and is pleased to have pastors and other employees of MCNP Canadian congregations and/affiliated organizations join the ELCIC Pension Plan when meeting established membership eligibility requirements:

AND WHEREAS the Board of Directors of ELCIC Group Services Inc. has, by resolution (the "Resolution"), recommended that MCNP Canadian congregations and affiliated organization to be accepted as participating employers in the ELCIC Pension Plan upon signing a Participation Agreement.

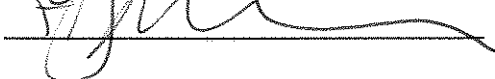
BE IT RESOLVED that the Resolution be ratified, authorized, and approved so that MCNP Canadian congregations and affiliated organization be accepted as participating employers in the ELCIC Pension Plan upon signing a Participation Agreement.

The foregoing resolution is hereby signed by the sole member of ELCIC Group Services Inc. entitled to vote thereon at a special meeting of the members.

DATED the 4th day of March, 2016.

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
IN CANADA

Per: 

Per: 

## ELCIC Statement on Implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

*National Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada  
March, 2016*

In response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Call to Action #48, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC) issues the following statement:

“We are grateful to the survivors, whose courageous witness has touched the heart of the life of our churches.”<sup>1</sup>  
We acknowledge that it is the survivors' insistence on speaking truth that has brought us to this moment in history, and that has pointed the way to the hopeful and difficult work of reconciliation.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC) recognizes the importance of the work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) and the 94 Calls to Action in the TRC Final Report.

The ELCIC recognizes the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* as the framework for reconciliation. “The ELCIC endorses the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* adopted by the UN General Assembly on 13 September 2007; and adopt the declaration as a standard for our own practice. We commit to implementing the values and principles of the declaration within the work and structures of this church.”<sup>2</sup>

As a church *In Mission for Others*, the ELCIC seeks to implement the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* in the following ways:

### 1. As Treaty People

The ELCIC affirms that we are all treaty people. We recognize treaties as sacred covenants involving respect, commitments, and responsibilities by all parties. We affirm that recognizing and implementing Indigenous rights is essential to being the kind of society Canada strives to be. We affirm that the ELCIC's endorsement of the declaration is a call to grow, learn, change and be transformed. “We now give you our word that our church is committed to an ongoing process of finding truth and reconciliation together. It is our hope that the sincerity of our covenant will be demonstrated in our actions and in our attitudes. We understand this to be both an urgent and a long-term commitment.”<sup>3</sup>

### 2. As an Institution

The ELCIC has made the following statements:

➤ **2011 Convention Resolution on Encouraging Right Relationships with Indigenous Peoples**

This includes an endorsement of the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*

➤ **2013 Joint Assembly Declaration**

This includes an expressed commitment to free, prior and informed consent for Indigenous Peoples and to addressing issues of responsible extraction.

➤ **2014 Expression of Reconciliation**

This includes a commitment to a long term journey of reconciliation.

➤ **2015 National Convention Resolution Repudiating the Doctrine of Discovery**



The above statements express both a desire and a commitment to live in healthy relationships, to work for reconciliation and to transform practices.

Over the next two years, the ELCIC will review its policies, programs, and practices in order to ensure they comply with the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*. This will include a review of investment policy to ensure compliance with the principles of free, prior and informed consent.

### **3. As Learner and Educator**

The ELCIC believes we have much to learn about right relations, reconciliation and the rights of Indigenous Peoples.

As a learner, the ELCIC will seek and accept invitations to be part of discussions that help us to understand more deeply how to respect Indigenous rights.

At least once a year for the next three years, the National Church Council will learn more about renunciation and Indigenous rights through an education session at one of its meetings. We encourage synod councils, congregations and their councils to do the same locally and contextually.

As an educator, the ELCIC will raise awareness of the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* among its congregations and members. We will encourage all members to participate in discussions that help deepen understanding, and we will post a list of resources to support the educational process.

We will do this ecumenically whenever possible and will use the resources of our partners in learning and educating.

The ELCIC will work with our schools and seminaries to determine how an understanding of Indigenous rights and history will help in the education and formation of leaders.

### **4. As an Advocate**

The ELCIC will advocate for the implementation of all the TRC Calls to Action.

“Above all, we welcome the Commissioners’ Calls to Action as providing the basis for a wide and transformative conversation among Canadians about the better future we intend to foster, not just for Indigenous Peoples, but for all of us who long to live in a society grounded in right relationships and equity.

“We will continue to share in the work of healing and reconciliation, respectfully following the leadership of Indigenous communities and leaders, and to offer leadership among non-Indigenous Canadians where that is appropriate.”<sup>4</sup>

### **5. As Pastoral and Spiritual Care Provider**

Spiritual care is part of life in community as church. The ELCIC feels called to be in prayerful and supportive solidarity with those who are making healing journeys. Recognizing that we have benefitted from our colonial history and identity, the ELCIC commits to offering care in appropriate ways and at appropriate times. We

believe that prayer, worship, scriptures, listening, empathy, spiritual care and theological reflection can support healing journeys. We affirm that giving up colonial domination and attitudes is one type of healing journey.

“May the Creator guide us as we continue in the work of healing, justice, and right relations for the generations it will take to address that harm ‘and guide this country on a new and different path.’ (Remembering the Children prayer, 2008)”<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Response of the Churches to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, June 2, 2015.

<http://www.anglican.ca/tr/response-of-the-churches-to-the-truth-and-reconciliation-commission-of-canada/>

<sup>2</sup> 2011 ELCIC National Convention (NC-2011-22).

<sup>3</sup> 2014 Bishop Susan Johnson, presentation of the ELCIC’s Expression of Reconciliation at the Edmonton Truth and Reconciliation National Event.

<sup>4</sup> Response of the Churches to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, June 2, 2015.

<http://www.anglican.ca/tr/response-of-the-churches-to-the-truth-and-reconciliation-commission-of-canada/>

<sup>5</sup> Response of the Churches to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, June 2, 2015.

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